

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the Abstract located on page 49 of the specification with the following Abstract:

The Laragh Method is ~~a novel method~~ useful for evaluating and treating hypertensive patients. The Laragh Method provides a systematic approach for the physician to use volume vasoconstriction information with entry and induced changes in blood pressure and in ambulatory plasma renin levels for the rational selection of treatment tailored to suit each individual hypertensive patient. The Laragh Method provides a systematic and rational approach to drug selection which greatly improves the therapeutic success rate among hypertensive patients and which for the large majority provides long-term blood pressure control with one drug instead of two or two instead of three with each drug rationally targeted to control the renin and/or volume elements in the blood pressure equation.